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THE MORNING NEWS

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Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

The Casino at the Radisson announced major support for Special Olympics Aruba



Special athletes with Dennis Conrado, Arturo Werleman, Michael Croes and Netty Williams

Foundation Autism Aruba says "Light it up Blue" for World Autism Awareness Day



See story on page 3

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Radisson Casino General Manager Micheal Croes welcomed special athletes to the resort for an announcement of a month-long campaign by The Casino to assist them in raising the funds required for an Aruban delegation to participate in the Special Olympics International Summer Games 2011, this year taking place in Athens, Greece.

Mr. Wildling was joined by Chairman of the Special Olympics Committee Aruba, Arturo Werleman, in explaining the importance of encouraging the mentally challenged to "be all they can be" by training and competing in Special Olympics; the lessons they learn provide self-esteem and the confidence to master job skills and to live a productive, fulfilling life.

The Casino at the Radisson will open their fundraising campaign with an April Fools' Day Texas Hold 'Em tournament this Friday, April 1. Players are invited to join in games beginning at 5:00, 8:00 and 11:00 PM. Buy-in for each game is \$150 U.S. for \$6,000 in chips, with a 10% casino fee.

Continued on page 3

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Japan on 'maximum alert' over nuclear plant

SENDAI, Japan (AFP) — Japan said late yesterday it was on "maximum alert" over a crippled nuclear plant where radioactive water has halted repair work and plutonium has been found in the soil.

The earthquake and tsunami that ravaged Japan's northeast coast and left about 28,000 dead or missing also knocked out reactor cooling systems at the Fukushima plant, which has leaked radiation into the air and sea.

Prime Minister Naoto Kan conceded the situation at the coastal atomic power station remained "unpredictable" and pledged his government would "tackle the problem while in a state of maximum alert".

In a stop-gap measure to contain the crisis at the plant, crews have poured thousands of tons of water onto reactors where fuel rods are thought to

have partially melted, and topped up pools for spent fuel rods.

But the run-off of the operation has accumulated in the basements of turbine rooms connected to three reactors and filled up tunnels, making it too risky for workers to go near to repair cooling systems needed to stabilize the plant.

One tunnel alone holds 6,000 cubic metres (212,000 cubic feet) of contaminated water, more than two Olympic swimming pools. Still, the only choice for now is to keep pumping water, said government spokesman Yukio Edano.

If the rods are fully exposed to the air, they would rapidly heat up, melt down and spew out far greater plumes of radiation at the site, located about 250 kilometers (155 miles) northeast of Tokyo, nuclear experts fear.

Workers have piled sandbags and concrete blocks around the tunnel shafts to contain the water, the nuclear regulatory body said. They

have now also restored light in the control rooms of reactors one to four.

The water out of reactor two has measured 1,000 millisieverts per hour -- four times the recently-hiked total exposure limit for emergency staff, and a level that can cause radiation sickness with nausea and vomiting in an hour.

Adding to the nuclear fears, embattled operator Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) said plutonium had been detected in soil samples that were taken a week ago at five spots in the plant.

Nuclear safety agency spokesman Hidehiko Nishiyama said the plutonium data suggested "certain damage to fuel rods", Kyodo News reported.

The US environmental protection agency says internal exposure to plutonium "is an extremely serious health hazard" as it stays in the body for decades, exposing organs and tissue to radiation and increasing the risk of cancer.

Caribbean Ponzi schemer pleads guilty in U.S. court

MIAMI, Florida — A Jamaican financier who ran a Ponzi scheme that defrauded thousands of investors in Florida and the Caribbean out of more than \$220 million pleaded guilty yesterday to fraud and money laundering charges in a U.S. court.

David Smith was extradited last year from the Turks and Caicos Islands after being sentenced to six-and-a-half years in prison on similar charges.

The case marked the latest Ponzi scheme to affect investors in Florida already hit by fallout from the massive fraud scandals surrounding convicted Wall Street

swindler Bernard Madoff and accused Texas con man and financier Allen Stanford.

Prosecutors say Smith, a prominent philanthropist, headed an investment scam which lured some 6,000 people whose money was eventually used to bankroll his lavish lifestyle that included a \$2 million island home, a downpayment on a Lear jet and expensive cars and jewelry.

Smith agreed to forfeit \$128 million immediately as part of the plea deal, which also stipulates that his wife will not be charged in the case.

More air attacks on Libya as world powers keep up pressure

TRIPOLI, Libya (AFP) — Loud blasts rocked the Libyan capital Tripoli for the 11th night in a row last night as world powers vowed to press efforts to stop Moamer Kadhafi's "murderous attacks" on civilians but stopped short of proposals to send him into exile.

France is prepared to hold discussions over supplying military aid to Libyan rebels fighting Kadhafi's forces, Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said, while US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said that although UN sanctions prohibit the delivery of arms to the country, that ban no longer applies.

At an international conference on Libya in London, Clinton said: "It is our interpretation that (UN Security Council resolution) 1973 amended or overrode the absolute prohibition on arms to anyone in Libya, so that there could be a legitimate transfer of arms if a country should choose to do that."

Two loud explosions rocked the Libyan capital Tripoli yesterday evening close to Kadhafi's tightly guarded residence and military targets in the suburb of Tajura were also hit, an AFP correspondent reported.

Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini told AFP that participants in the London conference of more than 40 countries and organisations, including the United Nations and NATO, had unanimously agreed that Kadhafi should leave the country.

The final statement from the talks made no mention of any possible exile, but Frattini said: "A consensus has been reached, participants at the meeting unanimously said that Kadhafi must leave the country."

"Beyond that, it depends on the country which may offer to welcome Kadhafi. There is as yet no formal proposal, no country has formulated such a plan, even the African countries which may be ready to make one."



Ivorians displaced due to battles stand near a school in Bolequin, in western Ivory Coast. Forces backing Ivory Coast's internationally recognised president Alassane Ouattara seized key towns in a massive offensive yesterday as his camp ruled out a peaceful solution to a bloody post-election dispute. As Ouattara's camp ruled out a peaceful solution to the bloody post-election dispute, Gbagbo's under-pressure regime offered a ceasefire and talks

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The Casino at the Radisson announced major support...

Continued from page 1

Going for the Gold in Greece June 2011!!

The Casino at the Radisson is a proud sponsor of Aruba's Special Athletes and the delegation to the International Summer Games in Athens.

Help us help them to bring home the gold! Leave your unused chips and loose change in our donation box in the players' club area. Purchase raffle tickets at the cashier for a nightly drawing for \$100 in casino chips; all proceeds to send our special athletes on their way!

Join our special fundraising tournaments!

- ☆ April Fool's Day-Texas Hold'em - 5:00, 8:00 & 11 PM
- ☆ April 9 Bingo at 1:00 PM
- 8 games for \$10 cash rewards and prizes!

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Special Olympics

First place winner will take home 40% of the purse, which increases with the number of players; 2nd place wins 25%, 3rd wins 20% and 4th place wins 12% - 3% of the buy-in is for the dealers and servers. Unlimited Premium drinks are served to all players during the tournaments as part of the package.

On Saturday, April 9, The Casino will host a fundraising bingo beginning at 1:00 PM. Cards cost \$10 for 8 games, with all proceeds going to Special Olympics. There will be cash rewards in increasing value and prizes such as gift certificates for dinners for two, weekend stays and spa treatments from various vendors around the island who support Aruba's special athletes. The Radisson alone is providing one of each of these prizes, along with several other fine restaurants and resorts.

The Casino has placed a donation box in the Players' Area, in which they encourage their patrons to deposit chips and loose change and will conduct a nightly raffle at 11:00 PM for \$100 dollars in non-redeemable chips. Raffle tickets cost \$5 to win 20x that amount in chips, and are sold at the cashier's booth. All proceeds from the raffle are to send Aruba's spe-

cial athletes on their way to "Go, Go, for the Gold in Greece!" These activities will continue throughout the month of April. "The Casino at the Radisson and resort management are proud to sponsor the Aruba Special Olympics Committee in their goal to represent their island during this important international event," stated

Mr. Croes. "We were personally surprised and pleased to learn that our special athletes came home with more than 20 medals of gold, silver and bronze medals at the last international games in Shanghai, China where they competed against more than 7,000 athletes from 172 nations. We know they will make all their countrymen proud as they win again in Greece in June, and we hope all Arubans will support them in their efforts to participate in this year's Summer Games."

Arturo Werleman expressed his gratitude to Mr. Croes and the Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa for their sponsorship, not only financially, but in encouraging the special athletes and Arubans to be proud of what they do and strive to accomplish. Volunteers of the Special Olympics Committee Aruba will be selling tickets for the April 9 Bingo, and hope many will attend to enjoy a congenial afternoon, meet the athletes, and show their support.

To purchase tickets call Arturo Werleman at 730-0414 or Netty Williams, Director of Volunteers at 742-3306.

by Rosalie Klein

Let Dutch jets bomb in Libya too, says VVD MP

An MP from the ruling VVD Liberal party says Dutch F16 fighter jets sent to Libya to oversee the no-fly zone and weapons embargo should also be used for bomb attacks.

VVD MP Han ten Broeke says in Tuesday's Telegraaf that the UN resolution on

Libya is wide enough to include bombing targets on the ground. However, this should only happen under Nato auspices, ten Broeke said.

Until now, the bomb attacks in Libya have been carried out by a loose coalition, including the US, Britain and France.

Foundation Autism Aruba says "Light it up Blue" for World Autism Awareness Day



Monique Kuiperi, Melissa Richardson, Natasha Britten, Philip Schouten, Thaisse Erasmus and Irelle Cabral

Volunteers of the FAA ask islanders everywhere to "go blue" for 24 hours to commemorate World Autism Awareness Day, this coming Saturday, April 2. The expression of community awareness is to begin the evening before, on Friday, April 1, the request for everyone to replace the bulbs on their house lights, preferably outdoors, with a blue-colored bulb, thus turning Aruba into a "blue light district" for a night and a day.

These actions are part of an international effort instigated by the Autism Speaks program and website, where participants can register their support for the initiative. The color blue was selected because autism affects 1 in 110 children, but 1 in 70 male births; this predominance of autism in little boys is an important question for researchers. Over 500 iconic buildings and landmarks around the world will shine a bright blue light on Autism beginning Friday night. Learn more about this and register at: <http://www.autismspeaks.org/>

All during Saturday, FAA's "Blue Boy" Philip



Schouten, will be seen making a scene around Aruba's government buildings, public areas and shopping centers, to bring the message to the community. Islanders and their family members are also encouraged to wear blue clothing of some kind to show their support for autism research; photographers will be roaming the streets to record this autism awareness and publish it in local and international media.

The community can further show their support by purchasing commemorative wristbands for only 5 Aruban florins at the FAA offices located at Irenestraat #21 in

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The 24-hour awareness vigil will end with a beach walk beginning in front of La Cabana Beach Resort & Racquet Club at 5:30 PM on Saturday. Inscription is also 5 Aruban florins per person for the 5.5k walk. Participants are also asked to be decked out in blue to show their spirit for the World Autism Awareness Day 2011 theme. For more information and registration for the walk, contact Maureen Kelly, 746-9598, or visit their website: <http://www.autismoaruba.org/>

by Rosalie Klein

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Divi Dazzles CATA delegates with a magical evening under the stars



Delegate of the annual CATA tourism conference, hoteliers and members of the Aruba Tourism Authority enjoyed a most creative evening offered by Divi Mega Resorts, hosted by Managing Director Alex Nieuwmeyer and the General Managers of Divi's family of five local resorts, Marin Bijl of Divi & Tamarijn, Gerrith Griffith of Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort and Mark Nooren of Divi Phoenix. Also on hand to meet the dignitaries Tabitha Fecunda, Island Marketing & Promotion Manager, and Howard Maduro, Divi's new Latin America Sales Director.



The evening took off with a cocktail party under the star on the newly refreshed pool deck, to the music of sax player Jairo Valles Alvarado, and continued with a spectacular Ritmo Cubano production named Sigue Sonando, a story of a little girl dreaming of becoming a princess for just one day, told by talented acrobats, exotic dancers and fire spinners. The show, explained Nieuwmeyer is performed every Sunday at the Tamarijn Beach Hotel to an enthusiastic audience of in-house guests.

The invited CATA delegates, all travel professionals from Latin America, were invited to the island in order to experience Aruba's vacation product first-hand and were very impressed with the level of entertainment Divi Mega Resorts featured and the beauty of their resort surroundings.

Executive Chef Anselmo Lacle further charmed them with his interactive, rich and varied buffet dinner on the beach, as their toes were caressed by the sugar white sand their taste buds were tempted with contemporary Caribbean and international specialties to the sounds of Steel in Motion steel pans, who provided dinner music.

After dinner, a beach golf competition unfolded engaging guests by golfing in the sand, under a tropical sky canopy. Entertainer Giovanni Trim filled the dance floor immediately after dessert with hot Latin hits compelling guests to sway to the music, and dance.



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Magic Money pays a \$5,000 jackpot at Cool Casino



A number of brand new Bally Signature Series slot machines was just recently installed at Cool Casino, Riu Palace. The new slots were enthusiastically received and on its first days of play Magic Money paid a giant jackpot to Dolores E. Birdel, a guest of the Riu Palace. The new Bally Signature Series machines include Magic Scepter, Ring of Riches and Wizard's Wealth, and they all spin 16 reels with 160 maximum credit bets. Players may use any denomination from 1c to \$50, says Deyanira Zuniga, Marketing Supervisor and may activate many fun features including Bonus Boost, Mystery Progressive, Magic Money Bonus and Mystery Jackpot with up to 500,000 credit payouts. The friendly graphics and thrilling sound effects make playing the brand new Bally Signature Series, a terrific gaming experience.

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Amazon puts music in the 'cloud'

Bid to ban cloned foods in Europe collapses



WASHINGTON (AFP) — Beating Apple and Google to the punch, Amazon unveiled a service yesterday that allows users to store their digital music online and play it on a computer or an Android device.

With Cloud Drive and Cloud Player, users can upload digital music, photos, videos and documents to Amazon servers and access the files through Web browsers or phones and tablet computers running Google's Android software.

The Cloud services run on computers equipped with Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari or Chrome Web

browsers. Purchases from Apple's iTunes or a personal music library can also be uploaded to the digital "music locker."

Amazon Cloud Drive provides five gigabytes of free online storage to Amazon account holders and a free upgrade to 20GB with the purchase of an MP3 album, the Seattle, Washington-based firm said in a statement.

Apple and Google are also reportedly working on similar "cloud" storage solutions for digital music collections but have not announced any plans yet.

Bloggers join hands to create Japan 'Quakebook'

OSAKA, Japan (AFP) — Inspired by a desire to help victims of Japan's deadly earthquake, a group of bloggers and writers have come together through the Internet to create a book of stories about the disaster.

The result, "Quakebook", is a moving collection of photos, memories and reflections about the massive

tremor and monster tsunami that demonstrates the power of the web to unite people around the world in times of tragedy.

The project is the brainchild of a British man living in Japan who blogs under the name "Our Man in Abiko" on websites such as Twitter, where the project uses the hashtag #quakebook.

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AFP) — An effort to ban cloned foods from supermarket shelves in Europe collapsed yesterday after EU states and the parliament failed to agree a law to control the industry.

Although both sides agree on banning meat directly derived from cloned animals, government officials and Euro MPs clashed over regulating foods produced from the offspring of clones.

Hungary, chair of the rotating European Union presidency, accused MPs of "political grandstanding" after a 12-hour round of all-night talks broke down without agreement, sending the rules back to the drawing board.

Parliament members wanted strict labels to be slapped on meat from offspring of clones, but the two sides were unable to agree on labelling all foods, with governments only willing to put them on fresh beef.

EU states argue that the labelling proposal was unrealistic and would lead to a "full-blown trade war" with nations that produce clone-derived meat and dairy products, such as Argentina, Brazil or the United States.

Hungarian rural development minister Sandor Fazekas said the parliament proposal was a "misleading, unfeasible 'solution' that in practice would have required drawing a family tree for



Handout photo of six cows produced through cloning by US researchers at Advanced Cell Technology in Worcester, Massachusetts.

each slice of cheese or salami."

It could take "several years" for the EU's executive Commission to come up with a new proposal, the Hungarian presidency said.

The breakdown effectively leaves in place 14-year-old rules that do not prevent the sale of food from clones.

"It is deeply frustrating that (the European) Council (of governments) would not listen to public opinion and support urgently needed measures to protect consumer and animal welfare interests," Euro MPs said in a statement.

"We made a huge effort to compromise but we were not willing to betray consumers on their right to know whether food comes from animals bred using clones," said

lawmakers Gianni Pittella and Kartika Liotard.

"Since European public opinion is overwhelmingly against cloning for food, a commitment to label all food products from cloned offspring is a bare minimum."

Euro MPs originally wanted a total ban on food from the offspring of clones, but they later proposed a labelling system to show consumers the animal's history.

French Euro MP Corine Lepage said some states, including Britain, were willing to allow a breakdown in talks "because it is in their interest to be able to import cloned semen without any controls."

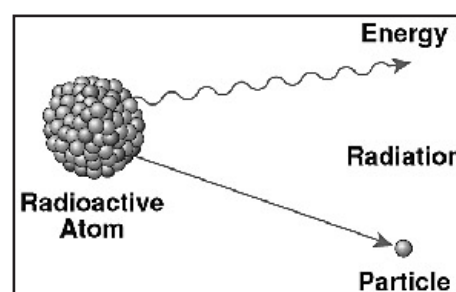
The European consumers group BEUC said the failure to reach an agreement was "shameful."

Traces of Japan radioactivity in US rain

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Traces of radioactivity from damaged nuclear power facilities in Japan have been detected in rainwater in the northeast United States, but pose no health risks, officials said.

Ohio reported elevated radiation levels in precipitation on Monday, after Environmental Protection Agency monitors found similar instances in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

Researchers at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio said they detected tiny amounts of Iodine



131 from Japan in rainwater collected from the roof of a campus building.

"In theory, the Iodine 131 could have come from any radioactive waste processing facility," said geology professor Gerald Matisoff, who monitors rainwater that is

carried into Lake Erie for the EPA.

"But, we know it's from Japan. The isotope is being seen worldwide."

Matisoff "estimated the level of radiation is about one-tenth that of natural background radiation," the university said in a statement.

The EPA, in an update Sunday, said it had received reports of "elevated levels of radiation in recent precipitation events" in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania and that it was "reviewing this data."

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Health & Living

French vegans in dock over baby's death

AMIENS, France (AFP) — Two vegans who fed their 11-month-old daughter only mother's milk went on trial in northern France on Tuesday charged with neglect after their baby died suffering from vitamin deficiency.

Sergine and Joel Le Moaligou, whose vegan diet forbids consuming any animal product including eggs and cow's milk, called the emergency services in March 2008 after becoming worried about their baby Louise's listlessness.

When the ambulance arrived at their home in Saint-Maulvis, a small village 150 kilometres (90 miles) north of Paris, the baby was already dead.

The ambulance workers called the police because the child was pale and thin, weighing 5.7 kilos (12.5 pounds) compared to an average eight kilos for her age.

The baby had only been fed on the milk of her mother, who was aged 37 at the time.

An autopsy showed that Louise was suffering from a vitamin A and B12 deficiency which experts say increases a child's sensitivity to infection and can be due to an unbalanced diet.

The parents, who also have a 13-year-old daughter who did not suffer vitamin deficiencies, became vegan after seeing "a television programme about how cattle were taken to abattoirs," said the mother's lawyer, Stephane Daquo.

They distrust traditional medicine and prefer to treat their children using their own methods, in accordance with advice from books.

"The couple did not follow the doctor's advice to hospitalise the baby who was suffering from bronchitis and was losing weight when they went for the nine-month check-up," Daquo said.

"They preferred applying clay or cabbage poultices whose recipes they found in their books. These are people who read the wrong thing at the wrong time," said Daquo.

The parents are still vegan and "are completely aware of the mistake they made," said the father's lawyer, Patrick Quenel.

The couple has been charged with "neglect or food deprivation followed by death" and face up to 30 years in prison if convicted.

A smart, healthy immune system knows the difference between harmful foreign invaders and attacking normal body cells or harmless substances (causing allergies and autoimmune diseases like lupus). Focused healthy living is how to boost your immune system health and keep it smart.

Here are the top 12 steps based on research:

1. Avoid toxins and germs. Don't smoke, avoid heavy metals, chemical exposure and medications with immune suppressing side effects. Wash your hands often. And practice safe sex. In other words, don't tax your immune system unnecessarily.
2. Eat a super healthy diet.
3. Include more antioxidants.
4. Exercise 30 minutes a day. (work out, but don't overdo it)

5. Eliminate detrimental foods. Avoid bad carbs and other high glycemic foods, bad fats, excess caffeine and alcohol and all "empty" calories.
6. Drink 8 cups of water a day.
7. Use stress management.
8. Get enough sleep and rest. S
9. Take quality supplements.
10. Cut way down on calories.
11. Spend more time outdoors. Time spent out of doors in fresh air and the natural light

of day stimulates immune system glands.

12. Maintain a positive outlook. A healthy social life, optimistic attitude and positive relationships have all been shown to be immune boosters. now that you fully understand how to boost immune system health, it's time to get busy making the necessary healthy lifestyle changes.

How to Boost Your Immune System Health

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Zissles brings you the exciting musical-production "D'Licious" six nights a week, starting at 7:30 pm. This Vegas/Broadway style dinner-show features over a dozen talented singers, actors and dancers who take you on a musical journey as they tell a story of following dreams. All this while you enjoy "D'Licious" food, combined with superb service.

Dueling PianoZ

After the dinnershow performance, Zissles immediately transforms into the best piano show on the island: *Dueling PianoZ*.

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Dueling PianoZ is an excellent choice for every celebration, birthdays, anniversaries or any other event.

THIS will be the night you remember!

For a sneak peek of the show, information and reservations call 586 3800.

www.zissles.com



Rambo is on the look-out for friends and family members

We would like to introduce Rambo to you, one of the donkeys living at the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary. Rambo was wandering around in the Jamanota vicinity together with Tootsie and Kidsy, a very dangerous place for donkeys due to traffic.

As soon as a male donkey is brought in, he is separated from the other donkeys and castrated. Well, the vet and his assistants still remember this castration! Rambo has shown them all four corners of his stable. By now things have quieted down, but Rambo is still a bit shy. He is a good friend of

Azzy and Cloudy: he is their protector, it seems. His former friends Tootsie and Kidsy are not in the picture anymore: Rambo just is not interested in them. He has new friends now and has moved on.

Rambo has a chip, just like the other donkeys. This way he can be recognized and all his medical information is on it. The donkeys at the sanctuary are well-cared for: they get their food and drink and when they are sick the vet is called. Yes, they are expensive customers. The volunteers try to cover the cost through organizing all kinds of activities

and by selling nice souvenirs in the store. Fortunately there are visitors who adopt a donkey now and then, who donate money or who buy something in the store. They help keep the sanctuary afloat that way.

The volunteers are now looking for people who wish to adopt Rambo. He will stay at the sanctuary, of course; the only thing that is needed is that AWG. 30,- per month is paid for his keep. In this way you help support this wonderful donkey as well as the sanctuary. You will receive a nice document and a super T-shirt. And if you like, your name and

photo will be posted on our website. The sanctuary is open on weekdays from 9 - 4 pm and in the weekends from 10 - 3 pm; visitors are very welcome. The sanctuary is also a great place to drink cup of coffee or a juice or eat an ice cream.

Please call the Donkey Sanctuary at 593 2933 and become Rambo's new family member; you can also register as an adoptive parent via our

website www.arubandonkey.org, or deposit a donation on our Aruba Bank account 40.03.025.

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---	--

Biggy Boy produces promotional jingle in commemoration of SETAR'S 25th anniversary

Aruba's telecommunications company, SETAR N.V., is celebrating its silver anniversary. The company was founded simultaneously with Aruba as an autonomous state within the Dutch Kingdom, and as the years went by, it has evolved along with the continually advancing field of telecommunications.

To commemorate its 25th anniversary, SETAR has launched a promotional jingle titled 'Stima Sempter Loke Ta Di Nos' - "Always Love What is Ours". The jingle is composed by well-known Aruban talent Jonathan Thiel (Biggy Boy). The song is based on popular Aruban waltz but with modern beats and will surely be a hit among is-



landers.

During the whole year SETAR will have attractive promotions that will delight the community as well as introducing diverse and advanced services. The new jingle can be heard at all local radio stations and is posted on SETAR's Facebook page.

Aloha Bridge Club Aruba (ABCA) game results



RESULTS THURSDAY, MARCH 24

A total of 11 pairs joined the bridge session of this morning at the Members Lounge of the Aruba Beach Club Resort.

The results 50% and higher are as follows:

1. Els Lacle / Geke In 'tVeld 62.50 %
2. Helen and Chris Goody 60.50 %
3. Annette Ybeles / Joke-Henriquez 58.75 %
4. Stascha Hornix / Henk Berghuizen 55.50 %
5. Liesbeth van den Ham / Carola Pinxter 55.19 %

The results 50% and higher are as follows:

1. Ans and Okke Ferwerda 59.94 %
2. Sheila Lampe / Edith Henriquez 56.94 %
3. Kathy Yarzagaray / Carmen Kruythoff 55.56 %
4. Kathy Rasenberger / Marion Pijper 52.78 %

Aloha Bridge Club Aruba meets twice a week: on Thursday mornings at the Members Lounge of the Aruba Beach Club Resort, starting at 9.00 am and on Friday evenings at the Frank Conway Room of Casa del Mar, starting at 7.30 pm. Signing up closes ten minutes before starting time. Fee for guest players \$ 6.00 or Afl. 10.00 per person. The club can also be of assistance in finding single players a bridge partner. Please call Addy Eilers, tel. 5824953.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2011

A total of 8 pairs attended the bridge session of this evening at the Frank Conway Room of the Casa del Mar Beach Resort.

Ans and Okke Ferwerda joined the group as guest players.

COMICS



Courtesy of

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PICKLES



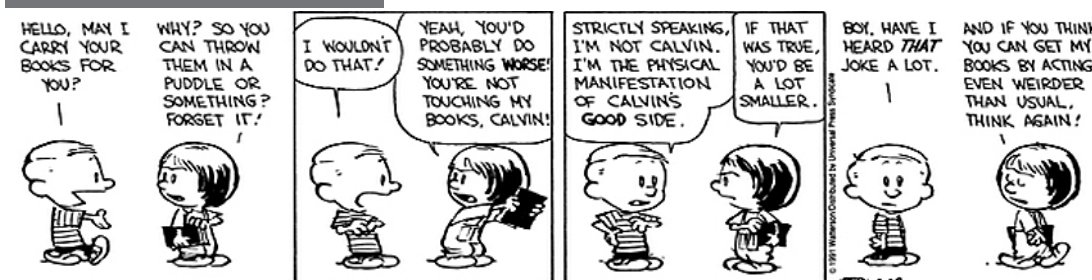
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MOMMA



Courtesy of Planters

CALVIN and HOBBS



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ACROSS

1. JFK's vice president
4. Tiger Woods's gp.
7. Italian lake
11. "The Bells" poet
12. Enthralled
13. Greek god
14. April's season (abbr.)
15. List shortener (2 wds.)
16. Peaks (abbr.)
17. "Trinity" author Leon
19. Stun

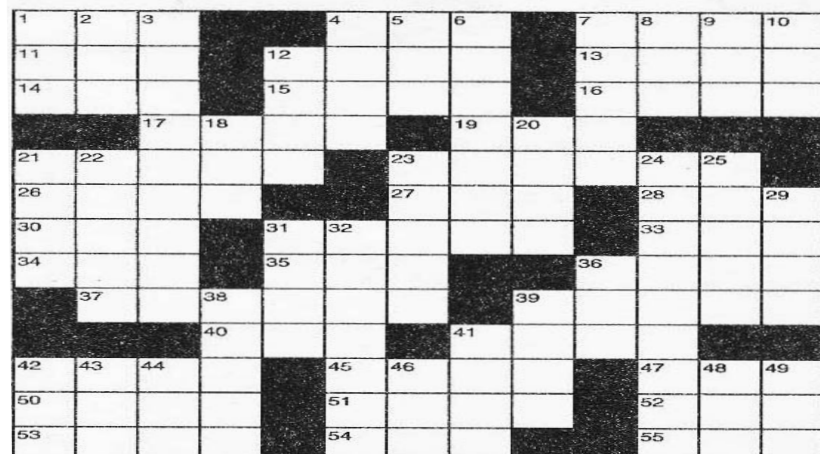
21. Actor James
23. Pungent vegetables
26. Dutch cheese town
27. Two make a qt.
28. Mrs. Ram
30. Slangy female
31. Designer Mizrahi
33. Race an engine
34. Get older
35. Dover's state (abbr.)
36. Prospector's bonanza
37. Hosts
39. Alligators' alleged home
40. Nero's language

- (abbr.)
41. Author Victor
42. Palo
45. Stack of trash
47. Tennis hit
50. Doctor's white wear
51. Takes nourishment
52. Follower of Thurs.
53. Former beaus
54. Physicians (abbr.)
55. Personality

DOWN

1. Vinyl records (abbr.)
2. Jazz form
3. Israeli city
4. Caresses gently
5. Grade Point

- Average (abbr.)
6. Home of the Braves
7. Engraved gem
8. Table scrap
9. Grown boys
10. WWII org.
12. Harness part
18. CD—
20. Neighbor of Mich.
21. Prefix for Trump's bucks
22. Axiom
23. October gems
24. Rex Stout's fictional detective (2 wds.)
25. Ingrid Bergman, e.g.
29. Always
31. Suggestion
32. Fumed
36. Lower extremity
38. Coagulates
39. Has a late dinner
41. Sombreros
42. Good card in blackjack
43. Brunch fish
44. Edison's initials
46. Hearing organ
48. Kin of assoc.
49. Story of a life, for short



Courtesy of



March 26 - April 02

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and Drug Addiction
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SOS TELEAYUDO SOS
Telephone Helpline
583-1190
Mon.-Thu. 9 p.m.-12 midn.
Fri.-Sun. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

CAS MARIE
Alzheimer's Day
Care Center
Tel: 5696910

Important
Telephone
Numbers

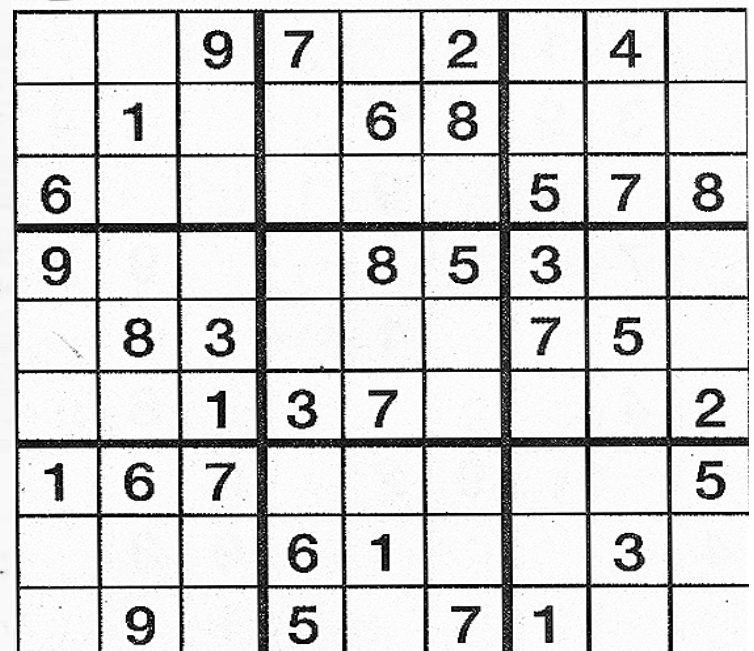
HOSPITAL
Horacio Oduber Hospital
Tel. 587-4300

EMERGENCY
Telephone 911
POLICE HDQS
Telephone 100

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C.V. TAS
587-1998, 587-5900

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SOLUTION

9	8	1	2	5	7	6	3
2	6	7	1	9	8	3	5
5	2	7	6	8	2	9	1
2	9	8	6	2	1	9	7
6	9	2	9	7	1	8	3
7	1	8	9	8	2	9	2
8	2	9	1	6	2	7	9
3	6	2	8	9	7	1	2
1	7	9	2	2	2	6	8

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

BRIEFS

IMF skeptical of Iraq oil targets

WASHINGTON (AFP) – The International Monetary Fund expressed doubts over Iraq's ability to meet its long-term targets for oil production, currently the source of nearly 90 percent of government income.

The IMF said infrastructure constraints were likely to prevent Iraq from boosting production from 2.5 million barrels now to its goal of 13 million barrels by 2017 -- more than oil king Saudi Arabia's current production.

"While these production goals could be feasible in the longer term, the main risks in the coming years will be bottlenecks in the export infrastructure that will need to be addressed," the IMF said, in a review of its \$3.7 billion support program.

Based on more conservative assumptions for the time it will take to expand Iraq's export capacity, oil production could still increase to over five million barrels a day by 2017.

The IMF cited the need for huge investments in port facilities, pipelines, desalination plants (for water to be injected into oil fields) and storage facilities.

In the very best case scenario, it said, Iraq could reach 12.2 million barrels a day by then.

It forecast production would rise to 2.75 million barrels a day, this year.

=====

Bid to ban cloned foods in Europe collapses

BRUSSELS (AFP) – An effort to ban cloned foods from supermarket shelves in Europe collapsed after EU states and the parliament failed to agree a law to control the industry.

Although both sides agree on banning meat directly derived from cloned animals, government officials and Euro MPs clashed again over regulating foods produced from the offspring of clones, after three years of negotiations.

Hungary, chair of the rotating European Union presidency, accused MPs of "political grandstanding" after a 12-hour round of all-night talks broke down without agreement, sending the rules back to the drawing board.

Parliament members wanted strict labels to be slapped on meat from offspring of clones, but the two sides were unable to agree on labelling all foods, with governments willing to put them only on fresh beef.

EU states argue that the labelling proposal was unrealistic and would lead to a "full-blown trade war" with nations that produce clone-derived meat and dairy products, such as Argentina, Brazil or the United States.

The EU imports 300,000 to 500,000 tonnes of beef every year. Much of it comes from the United States and Argentina, which authorise cloning for commercial purposes but have no system to trace clone-derived meat.

=====

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No hope in sight on US home prices: S&P



WASHINGTON (AFP) – Standard & Poor's said there was little promise for an upturn in US home values after their national price index fell again in January.

The S&P/Case-Shiller index for 20 main US cities fell by 3.1 percent at an annualised rate, and was down 0.2 percent from December.

"The housing market recession is not yet over, and none of the statistics are indicating any form of sustained recovery," said S&P's David

Blitzer.

"Keeping with the trends set in late 2010, January brings us weakening home prices with no real hope in sight for the near future," he said.

Blitzer said the data suggested that, after a slight rebound last year, prices could head lower than the first market bottom hit in April 2009.

"At this point we are not too far off, and that is what many analysts are seeing with sales, starts and inventory data

too."

Prices in only two metropolitan areas, Washington and San Diego, showed growth over the 12 month period.

Only Washington's growth -- at 3.5 percent -- was significant; in San Diego, home prices crawled up just 0.1 percent from January 2010.

The S&P indexes confirmed what other data on the US housing industry has shown recently, that sales are not recovering despite historically low interest rates.

Government officials have cited the depressed housing sector, a key pillar in the overall economy, as holding back the country's overall recovery from recession.

The indices showed that prices fell more than seven percent year-on-year in seven of the 20 cities, including 9.1 percent in Phoenix, Arizona and 8.1 percent in Detroit, Michigan.

Beatles songs sales cost music website \$950,000



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) – US online music service Bluebeat will pay British recording label EMI nearly a million dollars to avoid trial in a case over rights to stream and sell versions of Beatles songs.

Along with paying \$950,000, Bluebeat agreed to "permanently cease and desist" from infringing on copyrighted music belonging to EMI and other plaintiffs, according to a copy of the settlement.

EMI filed the suit in November 2009 in Los Angeles and trial was to begin yesterday.

While granting a restraining order early in the proceedings,

US District Court Judge John Walter indicated that he was shown no evidence supporting Bluebeat's claim that it wasn't infringing on EMI's rights to Beatles songs.

Bluebeat co-founder and chief executive Hank Risan had defended Bluebeat and sister website Basebeat.com, contending that they were legally selling "psycho-acoustic" simulated performances and not re-recorded Beatles tunes.

EMI countered that Bluebeat, which streamed music free and offered MP3 downloads of songs for 25 cents each, was distributing Beatles music without authorization.

Bluebeat had reportedly distributed 67,000 Beatles songs before the court intervened.

EMI owns the rights to Beatles recordings and collaborates with Apple Corps

on distribution of the music.

Apple last year won the right to sell Beatles songs at its iTunes online shop, where tunes are priced at \$1.29 each.

US District Judge Josephine Staton Tucker on March 25 endorsed the settlement, which leaves open the option of EMI going after Bluebeat for legal costs incurred by the case

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

OFA	FDA	ORR
ALMA	RENT	DEA
KEEL	IFSO	OFT
SANE	LAWYERS	
	CALMEST	
PRY	USER	CHAW
SPRIG		THINE
IMSO	BALI	PTS
	TARTANS	
SCARABS	LEWS	
VIA	IVES	IRON
CTR	DOSE	DIVA
REL	STS	KEG

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest



Managers of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, report that sales are picking up nicely as the global economy begins to recover and those with a bit of disposal income are looking to invest in a sure thing. Gold Coast Directing Manager Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners are barely using the villas or town homes they purchase, but taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their in-

"Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project; the scope and amenities. We talked to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

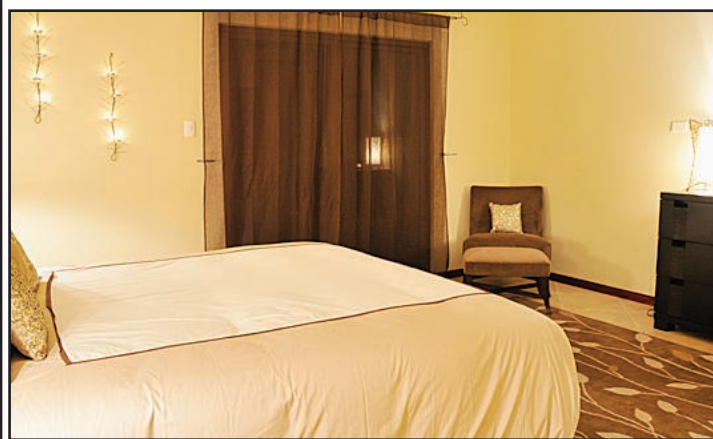
Input from frequent vacationers who dreamed of their own home in Aruba will eventually be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning club-

ment, particularly those taking advantage of the management association's rental service. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, making it easy for some owners to earn their mortgage payments or others to see an immediate return on their investment.

The design of the structures is open, airy and spacious, fully deploying the island environment, with the finest quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options for clients, so buyers can individualize their homes. An elegant and chic standard package is available, or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast managers have inaugurated a number of in-house services and are now negotiating with Interval International to provide a huge international pool for investors to tap for renters either short or long term. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination will also be available. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, babysitting and catering services are also available for community members as well as airport pick-up and drop-off and pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can all be arranged through their home management department.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.



vestment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community; in this area, the value of properties has only increased over time. It is minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy run Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years.

house complemented by two additional pools decks, one of which has been open for a year, the other will be ready for the holidays 2010. They expect the clubhouse to be ready for the community with a workout room and spectacular facilities by the end of 2011. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their invest-



The Queen's offers an authentic taste of Aruba!



Varela, Luisa and the next generation of chef

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.) Thus, eating out at the authentically Aruban restaurant, The Queen's, is very affordable, with a true taste of regional cuisine.

Owner Varela Innocencia confesses she opened her

into local cuisine. "We will definitely return to The Queen's," they affirmed, "the food was delicious and the prices are more than right."

The menu sports a variety of steaks and tenderloin, fresh caught seafood, Caribbean lobster, and of course, one of our favorites, and what we consider a true test of local cuisine, "Keshi Yena"- "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin



The Queens outdoor

restaurant in Oranjestad because "I grew up with this, and loved serving people our island food. My father and mother operated the little restaurant across from the Americana, which some may remember, the original Arawak. I remember how much our customers loved trying the local food, and they especially loved the prices!"

Varela's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, which is acknowledged on the menu with "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak.

We also bumped into island visitors Jim and Callie from Michigan, who were eager to try island food, and were more than pleased with their venture

of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lent that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

Located next to the Harbor at the end of the Weststraat, The Queen's is open from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. They also have daily specials, aside from an extensive menu, made from whatever is in season.

We noticed a steady stream of islanders coming for lunch in the pleasant surroundings or picking up take-out containers; always a sure sign of a winner is where the locals like to eat!

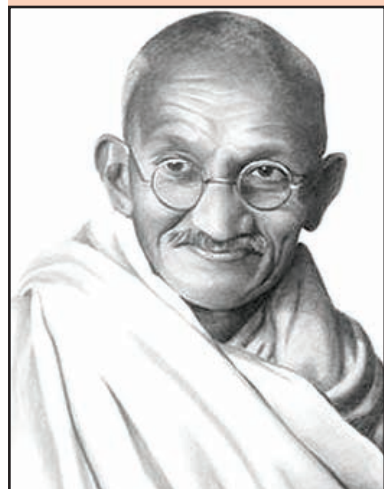


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US author fights back in Gandhi 'gay lover' row



NEW DELHI, India (AFP) – An American author on Tuesday angrily dismissed claims his new book on Mahatma Gandhi alleged that India's independence leader was a racist bisexual who left his wife for a body-builder.

Indian newspapers were outraged by reviews in the United States and Britain of Joseph Lelyveld's biography that focused on Gandhi's relationship with German-Jewish

architect and amateur body-builder Hermann Kallenbach.

Gandhi lived with Kallenbach in Johannesburg for about two years from 1907 before leaving South Africa to return to India in 1914.

"How completely you have taken possession of my body," Gandhi was quoted as saying in a letter to Kallenbach. "This is slavery with a vengeance."

The British Daily Mail ran the headline "Gandhi 'left his wife to live with a male lover' new book claims", while the Daily Telegraph review said he had "held racist views against South African blacks."

But Lelyveld, a former executive editor of the New York Times, said "Great Soul: Mahatma Gandhi And His Struggle With India" had been grossly distorted by the press coverage.

"I do not allege that Gandhi is racist or bisexual," he said in a statement issued through his

publisher Alfred A. Knopf. "The word 'bisexual' nowhere appears in the book."

"The word 'racist' is used once to characterise comments by Gandhi early in his stay in South Africa... the chapter in no way concludes that he was a racist or offers any suggestion of it."

The Wall Street Journal said Lelyveld's book depicted Gandhi -- who is revered as the father of independent India and an icon of non-violent protest -- was "a sexual weirdo, a political incompetent and a fanatical faddist."

"Mr Lelyveld makes abundantly clear... the love of his life was a German-Jewish architect and body-builder, Hermann Kallenbach," the Journal review said.

It quoted a letter Gandhi wrote to Kallenbach saying "your portrait (the only one) stands on my mantelpiece in my bedroom."

The book also details how Gandhi said cotton wool and Vaseline were "a constant reminder" of Kallenbach -- a reference the author believes might relate to enemas that Gandhi gave himself.

Gandhi experts and his relatives in India, where the book has not yet been released, attacked the accusations about Gandhi's love life.

Jad Adams, who wrote a book last year that itself caused a storm for examining how Gandhi bathed with nubile young women and often shared a bed with one or more of his female followers, rejected any suggestion that Gandhi was gay.

"If Gandhi committed acts of homosexuality, there would be ample evidence, either justifying them or expressing shame," he said, adding Gandhi used the word "love" often in letters and speech.

Adams said that he believed Kallenbach was homosexual and strongly attracted to Gandhi, but that the future independence leader, who had four children with his wife Kasturba, did not reciprocate.

The book went on sale in the United States yesterday. Bookshops in India said they did not know whether the book would be made available for sale in the country.

Bieber's 'Baby' most viewed video at YouTube



file photo Justin Bieber

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) – Pop star Justin Bieber's music video "Baby" has crossed 500 million views on YouTube and is the most watched ever on the video-sharing service that launched the boy music idol to fame.

The video, whose full title is "Justin Bieber - Baby ft. Ludacris," had logged 500.4

million views on Monday.

The video had also scored a whopping 1.1 million "dislikes" as compared to 578,000 "likes" from viewers expressing their opinion with simple thumbs-up or thumbs-down rankings at YouTube.

Bieber's clip topped a "Bad Romance" music video by Lady Gaga that had been viewed nearly 362 million times.

The top amateur video of all time at YouTube was "Charlie bit my finger - again," a 56-second snippet of a baby chomping on his bigger brother's forefinger.

The video had been viewed more than 296 million times, with 600,000 "likes," as of Monday.

Panama not amused by cross-dressing diplomat



Italo Afu before becoming a Consul

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AFP) – A Panamanian diplomat who donned a lace dress and with a banana in his bustline for carnival in Spain has offered to resign amid outrage at home over the gender bending display.

Italo Afu, Panama's consul in the Spanish Canary Islands, yesterday apologized profusely.

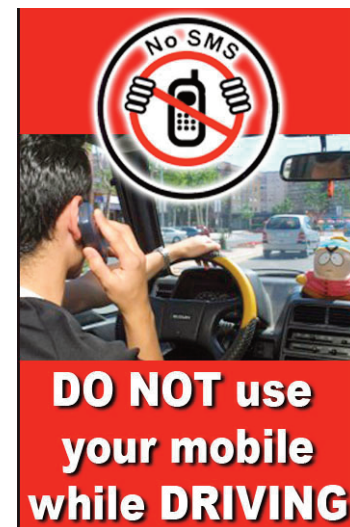
"Given the distaste in Panama over my behavior, I have decided to offer the foreign ministry my resignation and they can make the decision they see as appropriate," Afu told Telemetro.

"I do not want to harm anyone, much less my country," he said.

Officials in Panama, where the celebration is decidedly tamer than in the Canaries, were not amused.

"He should not have done it," President Ricardo Martinelli said.

"Couldn't he have dressed up like a pirate -- or a sailor -- or even Donald Duck?" asked a cross Foreign Minister Juan Carlos Varela.





7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

EGG DISHES

- *2 eggs sunny side up with ham & cheese
- *Scrambled with ham, cheese, onions, green pepper, tomato, mushroom
- *Plain omelettes with ham, cheese, onion, green pepper, tomato, mushroom

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*SWEET CRÊPES

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Cricket: Sri Lanka in final, Cup braced for Indo-Pak clash



Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralitharan(C) is carried on the shoulders of his teammates after playing his last match on home soil in their Cricket World Cup semi-final match against New Zealand in Colombo. Sri Lanka won by five wickets. AFP/Photo

NEW DELHI, India (AFP) - Sri Lanka reached their second successive World Cup final on Tuesday, clearing the tournament decks for India and Pakistan's heavyweight collision.

Sri Lanka, the 1996 champions and runners-up to Australia in 2007, overcame a worrying wobble to beat New Zealand by five wickets in Colombo and will tackle either India or Pakistan in Saturday's final in Mumbai.

Having dismissed the Black Caps for just 217, Sri Lanka reached 220-5 with 13 balls to spare but only after a nervy conclusion.

Tillakaratne Dilshan (73) and skipper Kumar Sangakkara (54) put on 120 for the second wicket before Sri Lanka lost three quick wickets to slump from 160-1 to 169-4.

But a limping Angelo Mathews (14) and Thilan Samaraweera (23) eventually saw their team home.

Victory also prolonged Muttiah Muralitharan's international career by one more game after the veteran off-spinner, who'll retire after the tournament, had marked his last appearance in Sri Lanka with two wickets.

In keeping with his dramatic career, the 38-year-old record-setting bowler took a wicket off the last ball of his final over on home soil when he had top scorer Scott Styris (57) lbw to send the 38,000-crowd at the R. Premadasa stadium into wild celebrations.

New Zealand, playing in their sixth semi-final, lost their last seven wickets for just 56 runs.

"Playing your last match in your country is emotional. When I played my last Test and took eight wickets it was very emotional," said Muralitharan of his last Test against India in 2010 where he also took a wicket off his last ball.

"The nation awaits you Murali," said one placard in the crowd, while another said: "Murali, thank you for the memories."

Meanwhile, more than 2,000 police and commandos threw a security blanket around Mohali ahead of Wednesday's semi-final between India and Pakistan, the pair's first meeting on Indian soil since the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

Although relations are still

tense, the match has become a diplomatic lever with Pakistan Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani accepting an invitation from his Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh to attend the match.

"We are leaving nothing to chance. The security will be multi-layered," said Mohali's Senior Superintendent of Police G.P.S. Bhullar.

Around 100 commandos belonging to Punjab's Special Security Group, trained by Israeli counter-terrorism experts, will be on duty at the 30,000-capacity PCA stadium.

All tickets for the game have been sold. A man trying to sell 200-rupee tickets for 30,000 rupees (\$670) on auction website eBay was arrested on Monday.

Pakistan skipper Shahid Afridi said he'd no problems with all the extra responsibility in the game.


"I think I am the cricketer first and then the diplomat. I am an ambassador for Pakistan," said Afridi, the tournament's top wicket taker with 21.

"I think it's a great sign for both countries and sports, especially cricket always brings these two countries together."

His India counterpart Mahendra Singh Dhoni insisted his team would just concentrate on the job at hand.

"We are expected to play good cricket. The biggest, distinguished guests will be there to see the game, but they are here to enjoy cricket, so we have to be at our best," he said.

India have defeated Pakistan in all of their four previous World Cup meetings.



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Japan football stars face off for disaster victims



Japanese national team members with head coach Alberto Zaccheroni(L) of Italy hold a banner before starting a charity match to raise money for victims of the earthquake and tsunami disaster in Osaka. AFP/Photo

OSAKA (AFP) - Japanese internationals past and present battled head-on in Osaka Tuesday to raise funds for victims of the country's devastating earthquake and tsunami at an all-star football match.

Before a roaring sell-out crowd at the 47,000-capacity Nagai Stadium, Alberto Zaccheroni's Blue Samurai beat a J-League select side, including many former internationals, 2-1.

Gamba Osaka midfielder Yasuhito Endo opened the scoring with a free kick in the 15th minute and Stuttgart striker Shinji Okazaki doubled the score five minutes later for the Blue Samurai.

But Kazuyoshi Miura, the oldest J-League player at 44, pulled one back on 82 minutes when he took a headed pass from Marcus Tulio Tanaka in the box and slotted beyond substitute Samurai goalkeeper Masaaki Higashiguchi.

"It was your support which gave us great power when we usually fought on the pitch," Japan captain and Wolfsburg midfielder Makoto Hasebe said as the players gathered on the pitch before a silent prayer and the 7:20 pm (1020 GMT) kick-off.

The charity match, follow-

ing the catastrophe which devastated the country's northeast coast, brought together the Blue Samurai for the first time since they lifted a record fourth Asian Cup title in Qatar just two months ago.

It was held under floodlights as western Japan has been spared the rolling blackouts caused by damage to power facilities, including a nuclear plant some 580 kilometres (360 miles) northeast of Osaka.

The J-League has shut down its regular season for five rounds until mid-April to save the electricity used to stage night matches.

Supporters, who paid up to 5,000 yen (\$60) a head, chanted: "Nippon, Nippon." Banners read "Gambare (Hang on), Nippon," "You'll Never Walk Alone" or "World Football Family, Arigato (Thank you)."

Proceeds from the match will go to the disaster areas, according to the Japan Football Association.

"I believe that the sympathy and compassion which we showed today will be helpful for the disaster victims in their reconstruction effort," said 57-year-old Zaccheroni, a former AC Milan boss.



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Olympics: 2012 stadium construction complete



The brand-new 'London Olympic Stadium'. The stadium is located at Marshgate Lane in Stratford, east London.

LONDON, England (AFP) - Construction work at the London 2012 Olympic Stadium came to an end on Tuesday as the last piece of turf was laid in the pitch.

The venue, which seats 80,000 spectators, took just under three years to build from start to finish at a cost of £486 million (\$777 million, 552 million euros). More than 5,250 people have worked on the project.

The final touch will be applied later this year when the running track's top surface will be put on.

London 2012 chief Sebastian Coe laid the final piece of turf along with Namibian sprinting great Frankie Fredericks.

"The Olympic Stadium will be the beating heart of the new Olympic Park," Coe said, adding that though the construction was completed on time and on budget, there was still much more to do before the two-week event opens in July 2012.

"The faultless construction of the stadium, on time and under budget, is a shining example of how London is primed and ready to host the greatest show on Earth," he said.

Fredericks, chairman of the International Olympic Committee's athletes' commission, added: "Athletes that have spent a lifetime training for their Olympic dream deserve to be able to achieve it in the best possible conditions. I believe that those competing here in 2012 will not be disappointed."

The two-tier bowl in Stratford, east London, will host the opening and closing ceremonies as well as the athletics track and field events.

After the Games have finished, English Premier League football side West Ham United will take it over, moving from their Upton Park home.

American Fish flails Del Potro in Miami

MIAMI, Florida (AFP) - 2009 US Open winner Juan Martin del Potro was at a loss for words after his fourth-round ouster at the ATP and WTA Miami Masters Tuesday at the hands of American Mardy Fish 7-5, 7-6 (7/5).

"It's difficult to say something now because I just lost a very, very tough match," said the Argentine whose comeback progress from 2010 wrist surgery was halted by the American who is on his way to taking over the top national ranking after the early exit here of Andy Roddick.

Del Potro has chosen not to play the start of the upcoming clay season and will consult with his doctors before taking a scheduling decision. He has been reportedly considering a return in Estoril, Portugal, in

a month. "I would love to play in Estoril. But after here, I will see the doctor, and then we will take a decision if I can still play or if I need to stop."

The pair took almost two and a half hours to get through two sets, with Fish winning the first on his sixth set point.

In other results on a day full of matches after rain postponements the night before, Spanish sixth seed David Ferrer beat compatriot Marcel Granollers 6-1, 6-2 and South African Kevin Anderson put out American John Isner 6-3, 7-6 (7/4).

Ukrainian Alexandr Dolgoplov finished off the final set to post a 6-7 (2/7), 6-4, 7-5 win and set up a date with top seed Rafael Nadal, still looking to earn his first Miami trophy after losing two finals.

Bobcats rally to beat Bucks

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AFP) - The shorthanded Charlotte Bobcats rallied to beat the Milwaukee Bucks 87-86 in an National Basketball Association contest between two teams fighting for playoff berths.

Gerald Henderson scored 16 points as the Bobcats came from behind Monday to win their third in a row and move within a game of the eighth and final playoff position in the Eastern Conference. Henderson had Charlotte's final seven points.

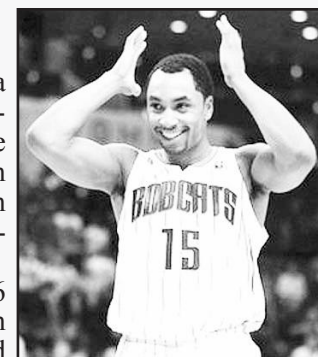
Stephen Jackson scored 18 points while Boris Diaw, DJ Augustin and Matt Carroll each had 10 points for Charlotte, who staged a fourth-quarter comeback.

Like the Bobcats, Milwaukee is battling to get into the post-season. The Bucks are three games back of eighth spot.

Brandon Jennings had 26 points and nine rebounds and Australia's Andrew Bogut added another 26 points for Milwaukee who lost their second straight game.

Bucks all-star Michael Redd played 15 minutes in his season debut and had four assists. Redd underwent knee surgery more than a year ago.

Charlotte charged from behind in the fourth despite losing both Augustin and Shaun Livingston to injuries in the second half.



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Football: Bosnian federation defies UEFA, ban to follow



SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AFP) - The Bosnian Football Federation (NSBIH) on Tuesday failed to adopt changes to its statute sought by FIFA and UEFA, triggering a ban from international competition to start on April 1.

During a meeting of the federation's general assembly in Sarajevo, 28 out of 54 delegates present voted against changes to the statute, an NSBIH statement said.

Football governing bodies UEFA and FIFA had demanded that NSBIH's ethnic-based tripartite presidency be replaced by a single president.

"We will wait for more information, but the suspension will be automatic starting from April 1," a UEFA spokesperson told AFP.

Bosnia are in Group D for Euro 2012 qualifiers, a group currently topped by France. Their next game is against Romania on June 3.

If the NSBIH fail to implement the sought changes, UEFA's executive committee could remove the national squad from Group D.

UEFA's executive committee will meet on June 16-17, but could be summoned for an earlier meeting.

The changes sought by

UEFA and FIFA were backed by 22 delegates, with three abstaining while one left the room during the vote.

The NSBIH assembly has 60 delegates, 20 from each of Bosnia's three ethnic communities -- Croats, Muslims and Serbs.

Immediately after the vote, the Muslim member of NSBIH's presidency accused Croat and Serb delegates of voting against the new statute.

The Serb-run entity of Republika Srpska, along with the Muslim-Croat Federation, have governed Bosnia since the 1992-1995 Balkans war.

Apart from the joint football federation, founded in 2002, each semi-autonomous half also has a federation of its own.

Earlier this month the Serb entity's federation unanimously backed maintenance of the joint federation's tripartite presidency.

UEFA secretary general Gianni Infantino subsequently reiterated European football governing body's threat to suspend Bosnia-Herzegovina if required changes are not made to the NSBIH statute.

The NSBIH rejected the demanded changes in July but FIFA and UEFA have given them until March 31 to change their minds.

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Murray confirms split with coach Corretja

LONDON, England (AFP) - British tennis star Andy Murray has parted company with coaching consultant Alex Corretja as he seeks to halt a form slump stretching back to January, it was confirmed Tuesday.

World number five Murray

said he had agreed a mutual split with former Spanish professional Corretja, who he regarded as a friend and mentor.

Corretja has been part of Murray's coaching team since April 2008, offering specialist advice on the Scot's clay-court season, where he has strug-

gled to emulate his success on other surfaces.

"I've had a really good relationship with Alex over the past three years. I have learned so much from being around him and I want to thank him for his hard work, enthusiasm, dedication and

support," Murray said.

Corretja meanwhile offered Murray support in future.

Among those touted as a possible new coach has been Czech great Ivan Lendl, who went through a similar spell of Grand Slam misery before coming good with eight titles.

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